

making the trip to Washington, DC and participating today in the opening prayer of the Senate.

#### SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have a short statement to make on our troops.

Very briefly, we have taken a period of time each morning to comment on the wonderful work and tremendous commitment and dedication our troops are displaying overseas for us, and we have had the opportunity to comment on the families at home, offering prayers and support for their children, and in many cases for their spouses and their parents as well. They know the men and women are fighting for liberty, democracy, and peace.

This morning, my thoughts and prayers are with the family of the soldier who died during Operation Iraqi Freedom, SP Brandon J. Rowe, Company C, 1-502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, Fort Campbell, KY.

Two sentences caught my eye from the Army news release:

Specialist Rowe epitomizes the best of our country—a brave soldier—who exhibited courage, selfless service, and honor in abundance. His ultimate sacrifice has contributed immeasurably to the freedom and security of both Iraq and the world.

While liberating Najaf, the 101st Airborne has been met over the last 48 hours by grateful people waving and clapping hands and saying, "Good job."

Quoted yesterday in the Washington Post, LTC Chris Hughes, a battalion commander in the 1st Brigade:

We waited about an hour and a half, and the hair on the back of my neck began to stand up. The crowd got bigger and bigger, so we pulled back out. But it was like the liberation of Paris.

Our newspaper in Nashville, the Tennessean, reported yesterday that a soldier in the 101st will soon learn he is a new father—again showing the many dimensions of this war and its impact on families and the feelings families are expressing and sharing among themselves. SGT Chris Schornak's wife Robyn gave birth to Tristan James Schornak at 2:01 p.m. on Tuesday. He was born at NorthCrest Medical Center in Springfield. The mom and young Tristan are doing well and will soon be living with relatives in Franklin, KY.

Again, these are faces of our families and our troops, and to all of them our thoughts and prayers continue to go out.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10 a.m., with the time equally di-

vided between the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and the Democrat leader, or their designee.

The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, Members of the Congress have been receiving reports on a daily basis on the conflict in Iraq. At these briefings, I report back to Members of the Congress and America that things have been going well, much better than many expected, in the war in Iraq.

What we have been getting out of these briefings is just how highly trained are our men and women in the Armed Forces and how the technological developments of this country have helped make their job easier on the battlefield. We have learned to appreciate their courage and commitment to protecting America's freedom.

Today marks the 14th day of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the fight for freedom continues in the Middle East. Our brave members of the U.S. military have shown the entire world how truly committed the United States is to ending the dangerous regime in Iraq. By sacrificing their lives so those in Iraq can finally be allowed peace, coalition forces continue to courageously march toward Baghdad.

During the last 2 weeks, I, along with many of my colleagues, have continued to come down to the Senate floor daily to honor our troops and praise their valor. While we stand in the safety of the Capitol Building, our words will not be heard by those who are directly in harm's way, but the words are still needed.

It is important for us to continue to honor these men and women, some of whom will not come home, who fight for freedom and the safety and security of the United States of America. I would like at this time to honor some of those brave men and women from my home State of Colorado who this very day are being moved into the Persian Gulf.

The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment as well as the 3rd Brigade Combat Team have been deployed from Fort Carson over the 3 weeks and continue to do so today. Many of these individuals have been waiting for the chance to stand shoulder to shoulder with their comrades already participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I salute them for their bravery.

It is clear that after all of the deployments from Fort Carson are completed, it will mark the biggest mobilization from the base since World War II. I sincerely hoped that the course of events that have led to the mobilization of soldiers not only from Colorado but those stationed all over the world would not have happened. But it was apparent from the beginning that our Armed Forces would need to be involved in the manner that they are now. And they have performed admi-

rably. I pray for a safe return for our troops and that this conflict can end as soon as possible.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the names of our military personnel who will not be returning home. I offer my condolences to those families whose sons and daughters have already been lost. To the families of LCpl Thomas Slocum and Cpl Randal Kent, I give my deepest and most sincere sympathies for the loss of their sons. In their passing, they have continued the valued Marine Corps tradition of esprit de corps, and I will continue to pray for you as you mourn your loss.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Armed Forces both at home and overseas. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends. God bless America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that the time is equally divided this morning; is that true?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. We have a lot of speakers here. How much time does the minority have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority has 10 minutes.

Mr. REID. And how long does the majority have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Approximately 5 minutes.

Mr. REID. We have a problem right here to begin with.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, if I can just assure that we are covered.

Mr. REID. OK.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. We have Senator DAYTON and Senator CORNYN, and if there is any time left I will take it.

Mr. REID. I will yield whatever time needed to the Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise also to pay tribute today to the heroic men and women of our Armed Forces who are performing so well on behalf of our country in Iraq. Their courage, their patriotism, and their valor represent the finest traditions and the best values of the American military and of the country which they serve. They have fought brilliantly, they have fought bravely, and they have fought successfully. They have now advanced to within 10 miles of Baghdad. They have been victorious thus far. They will be victorious from now on. And they will be victorious in the end.

To the brave women and men who gave their lives in the service of their Nation, to their families and friends, the people they love and the people who love them, we express our heartfelt gratitude and our deepest sorrow and condolences. We are in awe of your courage, your heroism. As the families and friends of those fallen heroes who are your friends and neighbors, your coworkers and church members, we know that you have suffered the most grievous losses and must be suffering inestimable pain. Our hearts go out to